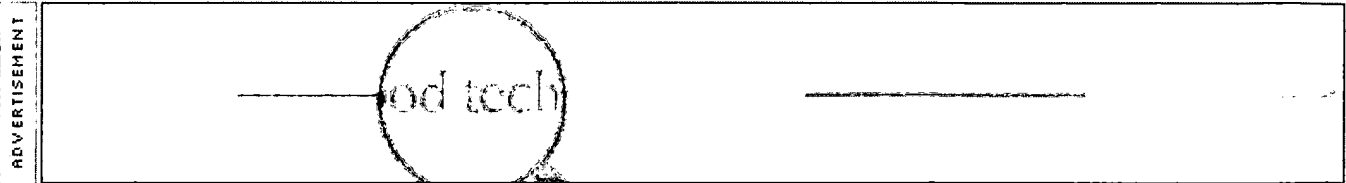


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URL

A URL (Uniform Resource Locator, previously Universal Resource Locator) - pronounced YU-AHR-EHL or, in son UHRL - is the address of a file (resource) accessible on the Internet. The type of file or resource depends on the I application protocol. Using the World Wide Web's protocol, the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the resource [HTML](#) page (like the one you're reading), an image file, a program such as a [common gateway interface](#) application [applet](#), or any other file supported by HTTP. The URL contains the name of the protocol required to access the [domain name](#) that identifies a specific computer on the Internet, and a pathname (hierarchical description of a file computer).

On the Web (which uses the Hypertext Transfer Protocol), an example of a URL is:

```
http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt
```

which describes a Web page to be accessed with an HTTP (Web browser) application that is located on a computer www.ietf.org. The pathname for the specific file in that computer is `/rfc/rfc2396.txt`.

An HTTP URL can be for any Web page, not just a home page, or any individual file.

A URL for a program such as a forms-handling [common gateway interface](#) script written in [Perl](#) might look like this:

```
http://whatis.com/cgi-bin/comments.pl
```

A URL for a file meant to be downloaded would require that the "ftp" protocol be specified like this one:

```
ftp://www.somecompany.com/whitepapers/widgets.ps
```

A URL is a type of [URI](#) (Uniform Resource Identifier, formerly called Universal Resource Identifier.)

Read more about it at:

- > [Uniform Resource Locators were originally described in IETF Request for Comments 1738.](#)
- > [The Uniform Resource Identifier Generic Syntax is described in Request for Comments 2396.](#)
- > [The World Wide Web Consortium's Architecture Domain provides more information about "Naming and Addressing: URIs, URLs, ..."](#)

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